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FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO RUEHGP/AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE 0418
INFO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2729
RHMFIUU/HOMELAND SECURITY CENTER WASHINGTON DC
RHMFIUU/TSA HQ WASHINGTON DC
RUEHNZ/AMCONSUL AUCKLAND 0732
RUEHDN/AMCONSUL SYDNEY 0437

UNCLAS WELLINGTON 000326

SIPDIS

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SENSITIVE

STATE FOR EAP/ANP - DAN RICCI
HOMELAND SECURITY FOR TSA HQ, INT'L PROGRAMS, TSA-1, TSA-7
TSA HQ WASHINGTON DC FOR INT'L PROGRAMS, TSA-1, TSA-7

SIPDIS
SYDNEY FOR TSA REP

E.O. 12985: N/A
TAGS: [KHL](#) [EAIR](#) [ASEC](#) [PTER](#) [OTRA](#) [NZ](#)
SUBJECT: NEW ZEALAND COUNTRY CLEARANCE FOR DHS/TSA SPECIALISTS ADAM
MICHAEL SHANEDLING AND SUZANNE VENTURA TO THE COOK ISLANDS

REF: SINGAPORE 1339

1. (SBU) Embassy welcomes and grants country clearance to Adam Michael Shanedling and Suzanne Ventura, DHS/TSA, to travel to Rarotonga, Cook Islands, from June 22-28, 2006, with a transit in Auckland, New Zealand, on June 28, 2006. The purpose of this visit is to conduct airport and air carrier station assessments/inspections.

2. (SBU) Embassy point of contact is Economic Officer Joy Yamamoto. Contact details are as follows:

Office: 644-462-6182
Fax: 644-472-3537
Cell: 027-446-4467
E-mail: YamamotoJO@state.gov

POC Joy Yamamoto requests a telephonic out-brief. Post will make the requested meetings and tour of airport facilities in Rarotonga.

3. (U) With regard to requested hotel reservations, the Rarotongan Beach Resort's rates are approx. NZD308/night which is approx USD180 (per diem is USD87). According to Embassy's travel agent, only the very cheapest properties in the Cook Islands would come within per diem as they are based on twin share which is more usual. Hence the single guest has to pay the equivalent of two people.

Please send e-mail address to Bridget Walsh (WalshBA@state.gov) and cc to Joy Yamamoto (YamamotoJO@state.gov) to discuss accommodation options.

Security Assessment

4. (SBU) The Cook Islands is a Parliamentary democracy in free association with New Zealand, on which they rely for defense and assistance in meeting low-level security threats. The Embassy is not aware of any specific threats to U.S. facilities or personnel at this time in the Cook Islands. However, in light of the worldwide security alert all visitors should heighten their security awareness and report any unusual incidents to the Regional Security Office at the Embassy in Wellington, New Zealand (telephone (64)(4)462-6000, 24 hours/day).

¶5. (SBU) Following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in the U.S. and the 2002 and 2005 terrorist bombings in Bali, there has been concern that terrorists might seek to take advantage of the low level of security maintained in small island states such as the Cook Islands in order to target tourists in previously safe destinations. New Zealand has worked with the Cook Islands to improve airport security in response to this possibility.

¶6. (U) As a result of recent military action in Iraq, there is a potential for retaliatory actions to be taken against U.S. citizens and interests throughout the world. Public demonstrations carry the potential for precipitating violence directed at American citizens.

¶7. (SBU) U.S. Government facilities worldwide remain at a heightened state of alert and some have drawn down their dependents and/or personnel. These facilities may temporarily close or suspend public services from time to time for security reasons. In those instances, U.S. embassies and consulates will make every effort to provide emergency services to American citizens. Monitor the local news and maintain contact with the nearest American Embassy or U.S. Consulate.

¶8. (U) Crime: Appropriate common sense precautions should be taken, especially at night, to avoid becoming a target of opportunity.

¶9. (U) Weather: Severe cyclones present a threat during the hurricane season; however, this is generally only from November to March.

Burnett